

AGENDA ITEM VII A

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

**REPORT ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE AND OTHER UPDATES**

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REPORT ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND OTHER UPDATES

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence held its first meeting on October 13, 2004 in the Governor's Press Room, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to identify actions that would help business and community leaders support the improvement of educational achievement statewide. John Stevens (Texas Business and Education Coalition) met with Commission members and provided specific examples of how business and community leaders have supported efforts to improve academic achievement in Texas. In addition, Jim Meza (Dean of the College of Education at UNO), Bill Herrington (Vice President Commercial Banking – Hibernia Bank), and Shannon Verrett (Principal- Pierre A. Capdau Charter School) identified types of community and business partnerships that have been important in the creation of Pierre A. Capdau (UNO) Charter School in New Orleans.

The Commission also determined that a need now exists for the Board of Regents to appoint two individuals to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence to represent the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and pre-service teachers. Regent Henry and Commissioner Savoie recommended two individuals to serve in these positions. One individual has accepted the nomination. The second person is currently being contacted and will be recommended for the appointment at the Board meeting in October.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval of the appointment of the Anngelica Danielle Barrow of Grambling State University to the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence to represent Pre-Service Teachers.

AGENDA ITEM VII B

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

**EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION
PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND
EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

AGENDA ITEM VII B

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EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There have now been five cycles of evaluation in the redesign of Louisiana's teacher preparation degree programs. Redesigned alternate certification programs, regular undergraduate teacher preparation programs, graduate programs for teachers, and graduate programs for educational leaders were submitted to the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during November 2001 for Cycle One Evaluations, April 2002 for Cycle Two Evaluations, September 2002 for Cycle Three Evaluations, February 2003 for Cycle Four Evaluations, and March 2004 for Cycle Five Evaluations. These programs were assessed by external evaluators whose recommendations were sent to affected institutions during January 2002, June 2002, December 2002, April 2003, and April 2004.

STAFF COMMENTS

The BoR/BESE/LAICU Program Review Committee met on September 29, 2004 to review a rejoinder submitted by Louisiana Tech University to address stipulations identified by the external evaluators for 1) its Advanced Master's Degree for Teachers and 2) baccalaureate K-12 (All Level) programs. In addition, the committee examined a rejoinder submitted by Nicholls State University for its baccalaureate basic and alternative program for Grades 4-8 certification.

After reviewing campus rejoinders, it was determined that all stipulations for the master-level program at La Tech had been addressed. It further recommended that the two baccalaureate programs at La Tech and Nicholls be recommended for approval when the campuses had successfully addressed outstanding minor items. It is anticipated that these additional steps will be completed prior to the October Regents meeting. If so, then a subsequent staff recommendation will be forthcoming.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Advanced Master's Degree for Teachers at Louisiana Tech University.